

Name: Michael J Smead

-Attribute this submission to: Michael J Smead

-Organization (if applicable): **(No organization)**

-Title of Hearing: **Hearing on Responding to Long-Term Unemployment**

Senator McDermott

Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee

I read the announcement of the hearing and was pleased to see it acknowledged that if we could extend funding to the bank bailouts then we have responsibility to continue unemployment funding for the long term unemployed. I have tried very hard to find a job. I was in the lumber/homebuilding business that was and still is hard hit. I am trying to get a certification in Physical Therapy and change careers but have had to spend money to get the training. Access to that training ran out. Hopes for the career change are dwindling, and my son has been released from the Air Force early and will not have any money to assist him in any capacity. I need your help for an additional year to get into a new field. I am 55 years old and time is running out to get the training and certification for a new growing field, then I compete for work with 25 year olds. Please consider our plight carefully.

Hind sight is 20/20 but the funding (penalty) for the bank bailouts should have been to include funding to address the people hurt, much like BP is incurring the cost the cleanup they incurred.

The home building business was fundamental to our economy. Every new home built and purchased also got furniture, carpeting, appliances, all vital elements of our economy.

Please grant another 8-12 months unemployment for the long term unemployed for us to have a fair chance to survive.

Michael J Smead